

Hamilton County Storm Water Public Education Participants:

City of Carmel:

Amanda Foley, Stormwater Administrator

afoley@ci.carmel.in.us

Nancy Heck, Community Relations Director

nheck@ci.carmel.in.us

Town of Fishers:

Jennifer Brunner, Stormwater Administrator

brunnerj@fishers.in.us

Hamilton County:

Parks & Recreation, Allen Patterson

awp@co.hamilton.in.us

Jeanette Gartner, Hamilton County Health Dept

jig@co.hamilton.in.us

Town of Cicero:

Parks & Recreation, Charlie Cambre

charlie.cambre@insightbb.com

Karen Blake

townof.cicero@insightbb.com

Town of Westfield:

Kurt Wanninger

kwanninger@westfieldtown.org

Business:

Jhani Laupus, Veolia Water

jhani.laupus@veoliana.com

Noblesville:

Cara Culp, Public Relations Administrator

cculp@noblesville.in.us

Other Stakeholders:

Judy Hagan, Carmel-Clay, Township Trustee

judyhagan@indy.rr.com

Melody Sweat, Washington Township Parks

msweat@washingtontownship-hc.us

Sharon Roberts, SWCD

sharon-roberts@iaswcd.org

IDEM 24 Hour Water Pollution hotline 1-800-233-7745

Other Important Resources:

Report-a-Polluter: www.co.hamilton.in.us

For Recycling Tips: H. C. Household Hazardous Waste Information

www.co.hamilton.in.us

Chemical and Hazardous Material Spill Emergencies: 911

Hamilton County Health Department: health@co.hamilton.in.us



Hamilton County Phase II
Stormwater Program
Surveyor's Office
1 Hamilton County Sq. #188
Noblesville, In 46060

Water Quality Guidelines for Car Wash Fundraisers



April 2005

This brochure has been prepared to inform the residents of Hamilton County of the water quality guidelines for carwash fundraisers in order to protect the water quality in storm drains, ditches, creeks, lakes and rivers.

Water Quality Guidelines for Car Wash Fundraisers

This brochure is intended to explain the water quality issues regarding the discharge of car wash water from fundraisers and the guidelines to be followed when conducting these activities. Car wash fundraisers are a popular means of raising money for worthwhile causes. However, runoff from car wash fundraisers if not properly managed can negatively impact the aquatic environment and degrade local waterways. When conducting your fundraiser you should follow these guidelines in order to prevent the wash water from entering the storm drains where it flows untreated to the ocean.

How does runoff from car wash fundraisers harm the environment?

During a car wash fundraiser, wash water containing soap and detergent, residues from exhaust fumes, brake pads, gasoline and motor oil washes off the cars, flows off the pavement and into nearby storm drains. Alone, one car wash fundraiser event may not create a significant adverse environmental impact. But, collectively, car wash fundraiser events can contribute significant amounts of wash water to the storm drain system.

Guidelines for Car Wash Fundraising Events

Before beginning your car wash fundraiser:

- Hold a meeting with all participants to explain the proper procedures that should be followed when conducting these activities.
- Remove all trash and debris from the car washing area.
- Use only soaps, cleaners or detergents labeled "non-toxic," "phosphate free," or "biodegradable." The safest products for the environment are vegetable-based or citrus-based soaps.
- Do not use acid based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers.
- Select a site where the wash water can soak into grass, gravel, or be diverted to nearby landscaping. This will allow the wash water to filter through the vegetation and/or soil instead of flowing directly into a storm drain.
- If you select a site that drains into a street, block off the storm drain with sandbags and either divert the wash water to an area where the water can pool and evaporate throughout the day or arrange to dispose of the wash water down a sanitary sewer drain (with permission from the sanitation district).
- At the end of the day, remember to properly dispose of sandbags.

During the car wash fundraiser:

- Shake car mats into a trash can or vacuum them. Do not shake dirt from car mats directly onto the ground.
- Use a bucket of soapy water to resoap rags or sponges throughout the wash rather than adding more soap directly to rags or sponges.
- Wring sponges and wash rags into buckets, not the ground.
- Conserve water by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut off and shutting off or kinking the hose when not in use.
- Always empty buckets into the sanitary sewer system (e.g. sinks or toilets).

After the car wash fundraiser:

- Remember to clean up. Have a volunteer walk the perimeter of the site to pick up trash and debris and dispose of it properly.

Before you allow anything to go into the gutter or storm drain, stop and think.

Storm drains do not go to the sewer, they flow

directly into channels and creeks, through wetlands and to the ocean.

Remember, the ocean begins at your front door.

